Three listed Serials attached to copy in Novel subject file

JFK assassination records appeals   Harold Weisberg 12/4/79
Files not searched
New Orleans records
Jim Garrison
Gordon Novel
Embarrassing; the Bureau is not an FOIA exemption

In 62-109060-4737, 4741 and 4743 the key name withheld, disclosed often elsewhere, is that of Gordon Novel. He was a PCI of the New Orleans office. He was as a youth a Nazi, is a criminal and at last report had been charged and convicted of serious crimes.

Ordinarily the identification of an informant is immune. In this case, as prior appeals establish, the FBI disclosed it. Without this it would have been fairly obvious. However, in this case the withholding furthers FBI detachment from a series of crimes of which it knew and did nothing because its own PCI was involved in them.

One of these was the heist of a munitions bunker at Houma, La., on the property of an oil company. Another is in what was then stolen for use in CIA-type anti-Castro activity. U.S.Army materials, including grenades and bazookas, previously stolen, it would appear, were stolen here and transported to and stored in the heart of New Orleans. Countless people could have been killed or injured.

It appears that the FBI separated itself from Novel once he reported penetrating Garrison's office. However, relevant as such records are, no such records have been provided from New Orleans, Dallas or FBIHQ records.

Novel was notorious and undependable. This provides motive for the withholding of the pertinent file number from the above-cited records, which are not attached. This also establishes the importance and relevance of the file number, including as a means of evaluating the dependability of the records and any political motives reflected. Also, the file number provides a lead for further searches and to other unsearched files.

Novel also was engaged in operations against Garrison from which the FBI wanted to detach itself, but he was engaged in them while he was a PCI. He was an early, misleading influence. (Not that Garrison suffered a lack of them or did not provide his own.)

Novel was involved in Neutrality Act violations, to the FBI's knowledge, but being anti-Castro and anti-Garrison appears to have been more important to the FBI.

The FBI used reporting on what it attributed to the unnamed Novel as a means of controlling and influencing what others, including in the Department, would and could know. This adds importance to the withheld AG, DAG, ISD and Criminal Division files.